

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-05 INT-05 L-02

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SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 FEA-01 /078 W

----- 048258

R 130348Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4664

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRP, ENRG, AS

SUBJ: CERP 4250: REQUIREMENT FOR PETROLEUM STATISTICS

REF: STATE A-8736

1. REFAIR, RECEIVED HERE DEC. 9, REQUESTS EMBASSY TO PROVIDE JULY-SEPTEMBER 1974 FIGURES ON AUSTRALIAN IMPORTS, EXPORTS, CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS FOR CRUDE OIL AND MAJOR REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. DATA ARE DUE IN DEPARTMENT BY JANUARY 1, 1975. SUBSEQUENT QUARTERLY REPORTS WILL BE DUE IN WASHINGTON NINETY DAYS AFTER END OF QUARTER UNDER REVISED CERP.

2. EMBASSY WILL, OF COURSE, ENDEAVOR TO MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS. HOWEVER, WE WISH TO POINT OUT FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS: (A) GOA (I.E. MINERALS AND ENERGY MINISTER CONNOR) HAS CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO MAKE PUBLIC ANY DATA ON LOCAL STOCKS OF CRUDE OIL OR ANY PETROLEUM PRODUCTS INCLUDING BUNKERS. RELIABLE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE INDUSTRY SOURCE TELLS US AUSTRALIA

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GENERALLY HAS STOCKS AVERAGING 30 DAYS CONSUMPTION,

ALTHOUGH CURRENT LEVELS ARE BELOW THIS DUE TO EXTENDED LABOR PROBLEMS EARLIER THIS YEAR AND (PARTICULARLY IN NEW SOUTH WALES) INADEQUATE REFINING CAPACITY. CONNOR REQUIRES OIL COMPANIES, WHICH ACTUALLY MAINTAIN MOST OF STOCKS IN AUSTRALIA, TO INFORM HIM IN STRICT CONFIDENCE OF THEIR MONTHLY STOCK LEVELS. COMPANIES NOT ALLOWED TO GIVE OUT THESE DATA. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK DATA FROM GOA AND OTHER SOURCES, BUT PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS ARE QUITE DIM.

(B) DUE TO LATENESS IN ARRIVAL OF REPAIR AND COMMENCEMENT OF CHRISTMAS-SUMMER VACATION PERIOD IN GOA AND BUSINESS, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN COMPLETE TRADE AND CONSUMPTION DATA FOR ENTIRE JULY-SEPTEMBER PERIOD IN TIME FOR POUCHING TO INSURE WASHINGTON ARRIVAL BY JANUARY 1. NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY WILL CERTAINLY STRIVE TO MEET THIS DEADLINE. FUTURE REPORTS SHOULD BE ON TIME ONCE ON-GOING ARRANGEMENTS MADE TO OBTAIN THESE FIGURES, WHICH ARE PRODUCED BY DIFFERENT GOA ENTITIES IN DIFFERENT CITIES.

(C) GIVEN GOA'S RELUCTANCE TO SHARE CERTAIN FIGURES WITH US, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING OF ANY FINAL PRODUCT (E.G. ANNUAL PUBLISHED REPORT) WHICH WE CAN OFFER TO AUSTRALIANS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE DATA WE SEEK, ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE STOCK FIGURES. QUID-PRO-QUO ARRANGEMENTS WORK WELL IN OBTAINING GOA COOPERATION IN OTHER INSTANCES (E.G. MINERALS QUESTIONNAIRE, MINT INTERROGATORY), ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT PROMISE SIMILAR RESULTS IN DEALING WITH CONNOR ON PETROLEUM.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER DATA BEING COMPILED IN WASHINGTON WILL BE AVAILABLE IN SUITABLE FORM TO GIVE TO GOA AS MEANS OF ENCOURAGING ITS COOPERATION.
SIMPSON

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